



The Bookworm Ages 3-5

From your Local Library and Idaho's Read to Me Program

Print Awareness & Young Children

Being familiar with printed language helps children feel comfortable with books and understand that print is useful.

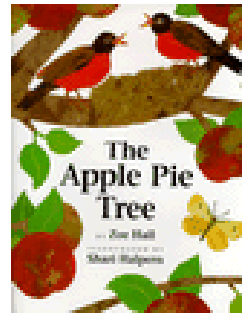
To help develop print awareness:

- Show children that print is all around them. Point it out in signs, on menus, and in books and newspapers.
- Occasionally run your finger along the bottom of words while reading. This helps children understand that print runs from left to right and that you are reading text rather than looking at pictures.
- Point to some words as you say them, especially words that are repeated.
- Label objects around your home, such as "bed," "window," "door," and "toys."
- Let your child turn the pages. When you are done reading, let her hold the book and tell you the story.
- Talk about and play with punctuation marks. Show your child what an exclamation mark and a question mark are, and why you read those sentences differently.
- Encourage children to play with print every day. Help them make lists, write notes, make signs, etc.

Children with print awareness understand that print has different functions; for example, menus list food choices, a book tells a story, a sign can show a favorite restaurant or warn of danger.

Book of the Month

The Apple Pie Tree,
written by Zoe Hall,
illustrated by Shari Halpern



A little girl, her baby sister, and a nest of robins watch through the seasons for apples to grow on their apple pie tree. This is an excellent book to teach young children about seasons, seeds and the life cycle. There is even a recipe for apple pie included on the last page!

If your child enjoyed this story, check out other stories written and illustrated by Zoe Hall and Shari Halpern at your library:

It's Pumpkin Time!

The Surprise Garden



Here are some good books to help your child develop **print awareness**:

I'm Not Cute! Jonathan Allen
Bounce, Doreen Cronin
Smash! Crash! Jon Scieszka
Dog's Noisy Day, Emma Dodd
First the Egg, Laura Vaccaro Seeger

More fun with *The Apple Pie Tree...*

The Nature of Things... Talk with your child about "seasons." Using the pictures in the story as a guide, help your child cut four tree trunks from a paper bag or craft paper. Label each: spring, summer, winter and autumn. Using markers, crayons and a variety of materials, let your child decorate each tree according to what it would look like in each season.

Out and about... To help your child become aware of print, take a walk through your neighborhood and point out things with print on them: stop signs, street signs, businesses, newsstands, bus stops, etc. Help your child read the words.

Around the house...

- Enjoy an apple with your child. Talk about things we can make with apples: pie, sauce, cider, juice, etc.
- When you use a recipe, let your child help you with the simple steps. Point out that the words in the recipe tell you how to make the dish.

Check it out!

There are great books about autumn and apples at your local library. Here are some to look for:

Apple-Picking Time, Michele Slawson

Russ and the Apple Tree Surprise, J. Rickert

Ten Apples up on Top, Theo LeSieg

Harvest Time, Mercer Mayer

Barn Dance! Bill Martin and J. Archambault

Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf, Lois Ehlert

Action Rhyme

5 Red Apples

(Use your fingers to represent the apples)

5 red apples hanging in a tree,

(hold up five fingers)

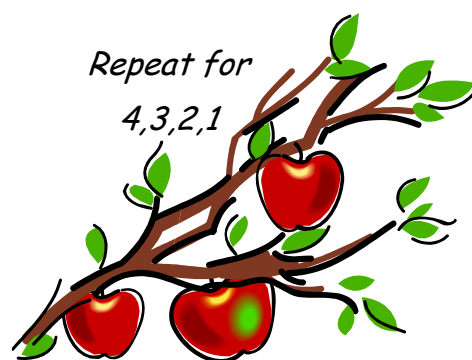
The juiciest apples you ever did see.

The wind came by and gave an angry frown,

(flutter fingers downward)

And one little apple came tumbling down!

(one finger falls)



What your library can do for you...

"Print awareness" is one of the six early literacy skills children should develop before they enter school. Your youth services librarian can suggest books and activities that help you support your child's learning at home.

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